

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 01563 172051Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----033085 172052Z /46

O 172005Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 760
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 1563

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH SALISBURY REPRESENTATIVES

REF: STATE 067376

SUMMARY: AT PRETORIA MEETING, RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVES
WERE SKEPTICAL ABOUT PROPOSED CONFERENCE, BUT REITERATED
THAT NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD MAKE JOINT DECISION ON
SALISBURY GROUP ATTENDANCE. RHODESIANS RELAYED SMITH'S
URGING THAT US AND UK WORK THROUGH KAUNDA TO BRING ABOUT
NKOMO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY

TWO AND ONE HALF HOUR MEETING WAS HELD WITH RHO-
DESIAN GROUP TODAY, MARCH 17, AT BRITISH EMBASSY. UK
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 01563 172051Z

SIDE INCLUDED JOHN GRAHAM, HENRY STEEL, AND AMBASSADOR
SIR DAVID SCOTT. JACK GAYLARD WAS ACCOMPANIED BY GEORGE
SMITH (DIRECTOR OF LEGAL DRAFTING) AND RHODESIAN DIPLO-
MATIC REPRESENTATIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA, HAROLD HAWKINS.
EMBASSY POLCONS TAYLOR SAT IN ON THE MEETING.

2. GRAHAM REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND

CONCLUDED WITH THE AGREED TALKING POINTS (STATE 067376).
GAYLARD REPLIED THAT THE RHODESIAN POSITION WAS THE SAME AS PRIME MINISTER SMITH'S RECENT PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE. GAYLARD REPEATED THE POINTS MADE BY SMITH THAT ANY DECISION ON THE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE TO BE JOINTLY MADE BY THE FOUR SALISBURY LEADERS AND THERE WOULD BE NO PURPOSE AT SUCH A CONFERENCE IN REOPENING MATTERS ALREADY DECIDED (IN THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT). ADDING ANOTHER POINT, GAYLARD SAID THE BASIS OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE KNOWN INCLUDING ITS STRUCTURE, PARTICIPATION AND THE SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION.

3. GAYLARD NOTED THAT THE THREE BLACK LEADERS--MUZOREWA, SITHOLE AND CHIRAU--HAD ALL BEEN MORE FORTHRIGHT IN THEIR REJECTION OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE THAN SMITH. GAYLARD SAID THAT IT WAS HOPED THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD BE ESTABLISHED NEXT WEEK, HOPEFULLY ON TUESDAY. AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE, HE SAID, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COULD MAKE ITS DECISION ON ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE.

4. GAYLARD ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ATTITUDE AND THE FORMAT FOR THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE. HE ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY SIGNS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS SOFTENING ON ITS DEMAND FOR CONTROL OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND WHAT SORT OF TRANSITION GOVERNMENT THEY WOULD ACCEPT. HE ALSO ASKED IF ZUPO WOULD BE IN-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 01563 172051Z

CLUDED AS A SEPARATE DELEGATION AT THE CONFERENCE. GRAHAM REPLIED THAT THAT WAS OUR INTENTION, WHILE STEEL SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER NOT TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT PARTICIPATION. GAYLARD OBJECTED AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CLARIFYING THE ORGANIZATION OF ANY MEETING. HE REFERRED TO THE "OBSTRUCTIONIST" PF ATTITUDE AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND WARNED THAT A REPEAT OF SUCH A CONFERENCE WOULD BE "COMPLETELY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE". GAYLARD REPEATED THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE UP TO THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BUT SAID HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY A FORMAT FOR A CONFERENCE COULD BE FOUND ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING HE REITERATED THAT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT WOULD STAND. HE SAID ALL CONCERNED IN SALISBURY WERE ANXIOUS TO GET ON WITH THE DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION AND WORKING OUT THE OTHER PRESSING PROBLEMS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.

5. GAYLARD SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF TRYING TO BRING NKOMO INTO THE SETTLEMENT. SMITH, GAYLARD SAID, BELIEVED KAUNDA WAS THE KEY. THE ZAMBIAN ECONOMIC

SITUATION IS DISASTROUS, HE SAID, AND THE COUNTRY IS IN DANGER OF BEING PUSHED INTO THE COMMUNIST CAMP. SMITH, HE SAID, BELIEVED THE WEST COULD BRING KAUNDA BACK INTO THE FOLD THROUGH ECONOMIC AID AND, HE IMPLIED, NKOMO COULD THUS BE PERSUADED TO JOIN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. AT THIS POINT GRAHAM ON INSTRUCTION WARNED OF THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE RECENT RHODESIAN RAID INTO ZAMBIA. GAYLARD REPLIED THAT KAUNDA "A SHORT WHILE AGO" HAD REDUCED HIS CONSTRAINTS ON THE GUERRILLAS AND RHODESIA WOULD BE ASKING FOR TROUBLE IF IT DID NOT HIT BACK. STEEL POINTED OUT THAT IF KAUNDA WAS THE KEY TO A SETTLEMENT, THIS WAS NO WAY TO GET GOOD RESULTS.

6. NEAR THE END OF THE MEETING GAYLARD NOTED THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PRETOR 01563 172051Z

"SOME OF OUR EXPERTS BELIEVE NKOMO HAS PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN." RECENT CONTACTS, HE SAID, HAD CONFIRMED NKOMO'S POSITION THAT HE WOULD ONLY COME BACK IF ASSURED THE TOP POSITION.

7. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM, GAYLARD DEFENDED THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ASSERTING THAT IT REPRESENTED A TRANSITION STAGE IN THE TRANSFER OF POWER, THAT SMITH AS PRIME MINISTER ENJOYED NO MORE REAL AUTHORITY THAN THE THREE BLACKS AND THAT FREE ELECTIONS WOULD BE FAIRLY CONDUCTED. HE ASKED WHAT THE UK AND US WOULD DO IN A NUMBER OF CONTINGENCIES SUCH AS THE MILITARY SITUATION EASING OFF OR A LARGE TURN OUT OF VOTERS IN THE ELECTION. GRAHAM REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON THESE HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS AND REITERATED THE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO BRING ALL THE PARTIES TOGETHER FOR DISCUSSION ON THE BASIS OF THE ANGLO/AMERICAN PLAN BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION OF THE PARTICIPANTS. SIR DAVID MPHASIZED THAT THE REAL TEST OF ANY SETTLEMENT WAS ENDING THE WAR.

8. PRIOR TO THE MEETING, POLCONS SUGGESTED TO GRAHAM THAT IF THERE SEEMED TO BE NOTHING MORE TO SAY, WE SHOULD AVOID A SECOND SESSION. AT END OF THE MEETING, ALTHOUGH SUBJECT APPEARED EXHAUSTED, IT WAS AGREED TO HAVE SHORT MEETING AGAIN TOMORROW, MARCH 18, AT 9:30 A.M. SITHOLE AIDE GOPO ARRIVED PRETORIA TODAY AND SEPARATE MEETING WITH HIM IS ALSO PLANNED FOR TOMORROW, WHICH POLCONS WILL ATTEND.
BOWDLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR01563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780119-1055
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780354/aaaabtqd.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e08717c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 67376
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3290169
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH SALISBURY REPRESENTATIVES
TAGS: PDEV, RH, (HAWKINS, HAROLD), (GAYLARD, JACK), (SMITH, GEORGE), (GRAHAM, JOHN), (STEEL, HENRY), (SCOTT, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e08717c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014